

Wolf Management in Idaho

Differences in Appearance Between Wolves and Coyotes:

SPECIES	WOLF	COYOTE
Weight (lbs)	70-120	20-35
Height at Shoulder	26-34 in.	16-20 in.
Color	black, white, all shades of gray & tan, grizzled never spotted.	all shades of gray & tan, white or black very rare, never spotted
Tail Carriage	hangs down or straight out, never curls	hangs down or straight out, never curls
General Appearance	massive, long legged, first impression at long distance is often calf or deer	delicate, medium size, dog-like proportions with fox-like face.
Ears	rounded, relatively short, never hang down	pointed, relatively long, never hang down
Muzzle	large and blocky	long and pointed
Track	4 1/2 - 5 in. long with claws	2-3 inches long with claws

At publication time, wolves were scheduled to be removed from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act on March 28. Idaho has adopted a Wolf Population Management Plan, which outlines how populations will be managed through hunting. A wolf hunting season and rules brochure will be published in July separately from this brochure. If delisting is delayed, wolves in Idaho south of Interstate 90 will continue to be managed under more flexible rules called 10(j), revised February 27, 2008. Any person legally present on private or public land, except land administered by the National Park Service, may immediately take a wolf that is in the act of attacking the individual's stock animal, such as horse, mule, donkey, llama, or goat used to transport people or possessions, or dog, provided that there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. For more information on the 10j rule visit: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves>.

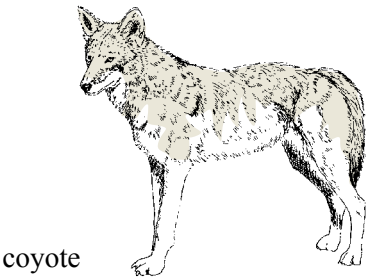
During 2007, biologists counted 83 resident wolf packs with a minimum of 732 wolves in Idaho. Packs number five to 15 wolves and may split into smaller groups to hunt. Home ranges for wolf packs are typically 250 to 400 square miles. Wolves typically travel along roads, trails and ridgelines and can travel 20 to 40 miles in a day. Wolves will defend their home range from other wolves and other canines, including domestic dogs.

Fish and Game is:

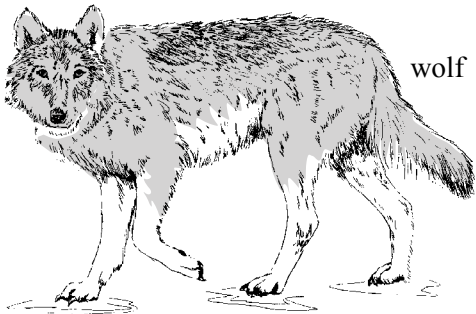
- 1) Increasing population monitoring where concerns for deer or elk exist.
- 2) Monitoring wolves.
- 3) Authorizing control of wolves that prey on livestock.
- 4) Providing information to hunters and the general public on wolves and their effects on big game and livestock.
- 5) Assisting in enforcing laws and investigating illegal wolf kills.

You can help us manage wolves. Please report wolf pack activity. If you see wolves please note the location, number of wolves, color of wolves, and whether you saw a radio collar. Please report this information on the Fish and Game website at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/ or call a Fish and Game regional office. Wolf reports have been used to identify new packs and keep track of known packs. Reports are being used to help us manage wolves. There are a few things you can do to avoid having conflicts with wolves and other large carnivores, including:

- 1) After you harvest a big game animal, it is wise to immediately quarter and retrieve your kill. If you must leave it in the woods overnight, it is best to hang the meat if possible, or to skin it and cover it with a tarp or plastic and leave articles of clothing at the site.
- 2) When you have retrieved your kill, hang it between two trees, preferably 10 feet off the ground to keep bears and other animals from reaching it. Also, you should hang your meat away from camp and stock so that if a large carnivore does come in to investigate the scent, it does not scare your stock.
- 3) Wolves are now well distributed throughout the forested areas of north, central, and south central Idaho. Hound hunters should look for recent wolf sign before turning dogs out on a bear or lion track. To prevent conflicts between hounds and wolves, some hound experts recommend that dogs be kept on a leash while tracking until the track gets fresh. Hounds by themselves should not be allowed to keep an animal treed for very long, as the sound of the hounds may attract wolves.



coyote



wolf



Actual Size
Coyote track - 2" - 3" long



Actual Size
Wolf track - 3 1/2" - 4" wide, 4 1/2" - 5" long